

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FMC-04

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 L-03 AID-20 /063 R

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APPROVED BY EB/ MA - RONALD A. WEBB

MARAD - RBOURDON ( INFO)

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R 091950 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, NU, US

SUBJECT: US- NICARAGUAN SHIPPING PROBLEMS

REF: ( A) STATE 70751, (24 APRIL, 1972); ( B) STATE 219776

1. DELTA LINES IN RECENT LETTER TO FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION ( FMC) HAS COMPLAINED ABOUT NICARAGUAN CARGO RESERVATION LAW NO. 299 OF MARCH 24, 1972 AND IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS PUBLISHED APRIL 26, 1972. THE COMPLAINT RESULTS FROM THE FACT DELTA LINES RECENTLY INAUGURATED GULF SERVICE TO CENTRAL AMERICA WITH TRANSSHIPMENT OF NICARAGUA- DESTINED CARGOES OVERLAND FROM PUERTO CORTES, HONDURAS AND IS EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES IN GENERATING CARGOES AS A RESULT OF NICARAGUAN CARGO RESERVATION MEASURES.

2. - THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THAT DELTA LINES OFFICIALS VISITED MANAGUA ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS RECENTLY TO DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM WITH GON OFFICIALS. WE ALSO UNDER-

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AGENT TO HANDLE CARGO MATTERS AND ACCORDINGLY HAS NOT ACTIVELY SOLICITED NICARAGUAN CARGOES DESTINED FOR THE US. PRESENTLY, HOWEVER, NICARAGUAN- DESTINED CARGOES FROM THE US, PARTICULARLY THOSE WIDELY DEFINED BY THE DECREE AS GOVERNMENT CARGOES, ARE BEING CHanneLED TO THE

NICARAGUAN CARRIER TO THE DETRIMENT OF DELTA LINES.

3. THE VIEWS OF THE USG REGARDING LAW NO. 299 WERE TRANSMITTED TO THE GON BY THE EMBASSY IN ITS DIPLOMATIC NOTE NO. 28 OF APRIL 26, 1972. HOWEVER, OUR RECORDS INDICATE THERE HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE FROM THE GON TO THE EMBASSY' S NOTE.

4. HERETOFORE, THE ABSENCE OF AMERICAN FLAG SERVICE FROM THE US GULF AND ATLANTIC TO NICARAGUA HAS SOMEWHAT LIMITED OUR ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY COUNTER NICARAGUAN ACTIONS WHICH ARE ADVERSELY AFFECTING OUR TRADE. INAUGURATION OF DELTA; S OPERATIONS CHANGES THIS SITUATION.

5. DRAWING ON GUIDANCE PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPHS A, B, C, AND E OF REFTel A, THE EMBASSY, AT ITS DISCRETION, IS REQUESTED TO INFORMALLY DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM WITH THE APPROPRIATE GON AUTHORITIES AND REITERATE USG CONTINUING CONCERN WITH THE DISCRIMINATORY AND OVERLY RESTRICTIVE ASPECTS OF THE NICARAGUAN CARGO RESERVATION LAW, THE APPLICATION OF WHICH IS ADVERSELY AFFECTING DELTA STEAMSHIP LINES AND AMERICAN SHIPPERS. THE EMBASSY SHOULD REFRAIN FROM DISCUSSING ARTICLE 8 OF THE DECREE LAW ( SEE PARA. D, REFTel A). HOWEVER, IF THE GON OFFICIALS BROACH THE SUBJECT OF AN INTERLINE AGREEMENT, EMBASSY OFFICIALS SHOULD STATE THE DECISION TO ENTER INTO SUCH AN AGREEMENT IS ONE FOR THE COMMERCIAL PARTIES CONCERNED TO DECIDE AND WOULD BE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE INDEPENDENT REGULATORY BODY, THE FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION. THE EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO, AS APPROPRIATE, BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF GON OFFICIALS THE INFORMATION SET FORTH IN PARA 4, REFTel B, BEGINNING THIRD SENTENCE WHICH READS " BARRING ANY MODIFICATION ...". IN THIS REGARD, IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT UNDER SECTION 19 OF THE MERCHANT MARINE ACT, 1920, AND IRRESPECTIVE OF THE PROPOSED IMPLEMENTING REGS FOR THIS SECTION, THE FMC IS STATUTORILY REQUIRED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAKE COUNTERVAILING MEASURES TO MEET ANY UNFAVORABLE

CONDITIONS TO US SHIPPING IN OUR FOREIGN TRADE RESULTING  
FROM FOREIGN LAWS, RULES OR REGULATIONS.

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6. ASIDE FROM THE FOREGOING, THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOTED  
IN MANAGUA 1243 THAT SEA- LAND HAS INITIATED US FLAG  
SERVICE TO NICARAGUA VIA PANAMA. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED  
IN RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER SEA- LAND' S  
OPERATION TO NICARAGUA IS BEING ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY  
DECREE NO. 299 AND IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS.

7. THE DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES THAT AS A RESULT OF THE  
MANAGUA EARTHQUAKE BOTH THE GON AND EMBASSY ARE NOT  
OPERATING UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS. HOWEVER, WE WOULD  
APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY DISCUSSING THIS MATTER WITH THE GON  
AT ITS EARLIEST CONVENIENCE AND ADVISING THE DEPARTMENT  
ACCORDINGLY.

8. DEPARTMENT POUCHING COPIES OF REFTELS TO ECONOMIC  
SECTION FOR EMBASSY' S CONVENIENCE. ROGERS

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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